CLAIMS

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1   1. A method of coding image data including the
2   steps of
3   testing for coefficient values requiring more
4   than eight bits to be uniquely coded, and
5   using a flag in at least one block of data to
6   indicate if all said coefficient values in said
7   block are coded in eight bits or fewer or if any
8   requires more than eight bits to be uniquely coded.

1   2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said
2   coefficient values are DCT coefficients.

1   3. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein said DCT
2   coefficients are AC DCT coefficients.

1   4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2   testing step is performed once per image.

1   5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2   testing step is performed once per block.

1   6. A method as recited in claim 1 including the
2   further set of using another flag in a block of data
3   to indicate if any ZRLs are present.

1   7.   A data format including

2   a first pair of bytes representing a block

3   number, a Klast value and at least one flag

4   indicating if all said coefficient values in said

5   block are coded in eight bits or fewer or if any

6   requires more than eight bits to be uniquely coded,

7   a second pair of bytes respectively

8   representing an R/S value and a coefficient value.

1   8.   A data format as recited in claim 7, further

2   including

3   at least one additional pair of bytes including

4   a EOB byte and a padding byte.

1   9.   A data format as recited in claim 7, wherein

2   said first pair of bytes further includes

3   another flag indicating if any runs of

4   consecutive zero-valued coefficients greater than

5   sixteen are present in said block.